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EMPLOYMENT, WAGES, COST OF LIVING, AND TRADE DISPUTES IN JULY.

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

EMPLOYMENT during July showed a further decline in most industries.

Among workpeople insured against unemployment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage unemployed in all industries taken together was 22·6 at 27th July, 1931, as compared with 21·8 at 22nd June, 1931, and 16·7 at 21st July, 1930. For males alone the percentage at 27th July, 1931, was 23·8, and for females 19·5. At 22nd June, 1931, the corresponding percentages were 23·2 and 18·4.

Insured Persons in Work in Great Britain.—It is estimated that on 27th July, 1931, there were approximately 9,174,100 insured persons aged 16 to 64 in work in Great Britain. This was 97,000 less than a month before, and 549,500 less than a year before.

Numbers Unemployed (excluding Persons normally in Casual Employment).—At 27th July, 1931, there were 1,877,543 persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain who were out of a situation. This was 26,122 more than a month before, and 651,139 more than a year before. The total on 27th July, 1931, included 1,381,980 men, 53,293 boys, 399,039 women, and 43,231 girls. It was made up approximately of 1,274,760 insured persons who had paid at least 30 contributions during the preceding two years, and therefore satisfied the full contributions condition for the receipt of unemployment benefit; 508,450 insured persons who had paid less than 30 contributions during the preceding two years; and 94,330 uninsured persons. The claimants for benefit, numbering 1,709,621, included 240,714 men, 5,484 boys, 48,068 women, and 2,918 girls, who had been on the Register for less than one month.

Numbers Temporarily Stopped.—At 27th July, 1931, there were registered as unemployed in Great Britain 501,109 men, 17,250 boys, 193,378 women and 12,953 girls, who were on short time or were otherwise suspended from work on the definite understanding that they were shortly to return to their former employment. The total of 724,690 was 62,549 more than a month before, and 72,239 more than a year before.

Numbers Unemployed normally in Casual Employment.—At 27th July, 1931, there were on the Registers in Great Britain 108,668 men, 257 boys, 2,171 women and 21 girls, who normally seek a livelihood by means of jobs of short duration; these are mainly employed in dock, harbour, river and canal service. The total of 111,117 was 2,707 less than a month before, but 17,242 more than a year before.

Industries in which Principal Variations occurred.—There was a further decline in coalmining, general engineering, and motor vehicle manufacture; also in most of the textile industries, the clothing trades, and in building and public works contracting. Unemployment also increased in slate quarrying, shipbuilding and ship repairing, boot and shoe manufacture, and in shipping service.

There was a slight improvement in the iron and steel and tinplate industries.

WAGES.

In the industries for which statistics are regularly compiled by the Department, the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in July resulted in an estimated decrease of about £84,000 in the weekly full-time wages of 614,000 workpeople, and in an increase of £725 in those of 22,500 workpeople.

The principal bodies of workpeople affected by reductions in rates of wages included those on systems of payment by results, night-shift workers, and two and three-shift workers in the engineering, etc., trades; various classes of lower-paid men on the railways; textile bleachers, dyers, etc., in Yorkshire, Lancashire, and Scotland; wool textile operatives employed by various firms in Yorkshire (chiefly in the Bradford district); men employed by civil engineering contractors; drug and fine chemical workers; steel sheet millmen and galvanisers; electrical cable makers; cutlery and edge tool makers at Sheffield; and the employees of various local authorities in the London and Lancashire and Cheshire areas. Increases occurred, under sliding scales based on selling prices or the proceeds of the industry, in the wages of iron puddlers and millmen in the North-East Coast and West of Scotland districts, and coal miners in Warwickshire.

COST OF LIVING.

At 1st August, the average level of retail prices of the commodities taken into account in the statistics compiled by the Ministry of Labour (including food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, and miscellaneous items) was approximately 45 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, as compared with 47 per cent. a month ago, and 57 per cent. a year ago. For food alone the increase over the level of July, 1914, was 28 per cent., compared with 30 per cent. a month ago, and 44 per cent. a year ago. The fall in the percentages since 1st July was mainly due to reductions in the prices of potatoes, the effect of which was partly counterbalanced by advances in the prices of eggs.

These statistics are designed to indicate the average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the pre-war standard of living of working-class families. Accordingly, the changes in the prices of the various articles included are combined proportionately to the relative importance of those items in pre-war working-class family expenditure, and no allowance is made for any changes in the standard of living.

TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes, involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in July was 38. In addition, 13 disputes which began before July were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The number of workpeople involved in all disputes in July (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) was about 36,800, and the aggregate duration of all disputes in July was about 194,000 working days.

EMPLOYMENT IN JULY.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

EMPLOYMENT during July showed a further decline in most industries. The decline was greatest in coal mining, general engineering, and motor vehicle manufacture; also in most of the textile industries, the clothing trades, and in building and public works contracting.

There was a slight improvement in iron and steel manufacture, and in the tinplate industry.

Each of the administrative divisions showed a decline in employment, which remained moderate in London and the Southern areas, and very bad in the North of England and in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

Among the workpeople, numbering approximately 12,400,000, insured against unemployment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and working in practically every industry except agriculture and private domestic service, the percentage unemployed at 27th July, 1931 (including those temporarily stopped as well as those wholly unemployed), was 22.6, as compared with 21.8 at 22nd June, 1931, and with 16.7 at 21st July, 1930.

At 27th July, 1931, the numbers of persons on the Registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain were 1,877,543 wholly unemployed, 724,690 temporarily stopped, and 1,111,177 normally in casual employment, making a total of 2,713,350. This was 85,964 more than a month before, and 740,620 more than a year before.

The 1,877,543 wholly unemployed included approximately 1,274,760 insured persons who had paid at least 30 contributions during the preceding two years, and therefore satisfied the full contributions condition for the receipt of unemployment benefit; 508,450 insured persons who had paid less than 30 contributions during the preceding two years; and 94,330 uninsured persons.

In Great Britain and Northern Ireland the total number of persons on the Registers of Employment Exchanges at 27th July, 1931, was 2,783,237.

Mining and Quarrying.—Employment in the coal mining industry continued to decline, and was very bad. Increased short-time working was reported in many districts. The total number of wage earners on the colliery books at 25th July, 1931, showed a decrease of 1.6 per cent. as compared with 27th June, 1931, and of 7.8 per cent. as compared with 26th July, 1930.

In the iron mining industry employment remained bad and showed little change compared with the previous month. In the West Lothian shale mines it was slack. In the limestone quarries in the Cleveland area employment was bad; in the Clitheroe area it continued steady, and in the Buxton area it was still bad.

Pig Iron, Iron and Steel, and Tinplate.—In the pig iron industry employment showed a decline and was very bad. Of 394 furnaces, the number in blast at the end of July was 70, as compared with 76 at the end of June, and 105 at the end of July, 1930.

At iron and steel works employment showed a slight improvement, but remained very bad. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 42.8 at 27th July, 1931, as compared with 45.2 at 22nd June, 1931, and 32.6 at 21st July, 1930.

In the tinplate and steel sheet industries employment showed an improvement but still remained very bad.

Engineering, Shipbuilding, and Metal Industries.—In engineering employment showed a further decline, on the whole, and remained bad. The most pronounced decline was again in the motor vehicle section, in which employment was bad. In general and textile engineering it was very bad and showed a decline. Little change was shown in electrical engineering, in which section it remained slack, or in marine engineering, in which it remained very bad.

In shipbuilding and ship-repairing employment showed a slight decline, and remained very bad. In the North-Eastern division

and Scotland, the two principal districts, the percentage of insured workpeople recorded as unemployed was 64.5, while only the two Southern divisions showed less than 40 per cent. In Wales and in Northern Ireland some improvement was shown compared with the previous month.

In the other metal trades employment was generally either slack or bad. It was slack in the sheet metal, hollow-ware, tube, nut and bolt, metallic bedstead, edge tool, and needle and fishing tackle trades, and bad in the brasswork, cutlery, file, wire manufacturing, chain and anchor, and jewellery and plated ware trades.

Textile Industries.—In the cotton industry employment continued very bad. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 41.5 at 27th July, 1931, as compared with 39.6 at 22nd June, 1931, and with 26.1 at 21st July, 1930.

In the wool textile industry employment continued very slack; it declined considerably in the worsted section, but showed little change in the woollen section. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 36.0 at 27th July, 1931, as compared with 32.8 at 22nd June, 1931, and with 26.1 at 21st July, 1930.

Employment in the hosiery trade showed a decline and continued bad, on the whole. In the lace trade it showed little change and continued bad, on the whole; in the Nottingham and Greenock districts it was affected by a trade dispute in the curtain section.

In the silk and artificial silk industries employment showed little change and remained bad on the whole. In the jute trade employment declined considerably and was extremely bad; in the linen trade it was very bad. In the textile bleaching, printing, dyeing, etc., trades employment showed a slight decline and continued very bad, with much short-time working.

Clothing Industries.—Employment in the retail bespoke and ready-made and wholesale bespoke branches of the tailoring trade showed a decline and was slack on the whole; in the dressmaking and millinery trades it was fair. In the shirt and collar trades employment was slack, whilst in the corset trade it was fairly good; in the glove trade it remained slack. In felt hat manufacture it showed a slight decline, and continued slack.

In the boot and shoe industry employment showed a decline, but remained moderate. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 23.5 at 27th July, 1931, as compared with 20.4 at 22nd June, 1931, and with 18.1 at 21st July, 1930.

Leather Trades.—Employment in the leather trades showed a slight improvement, but remained slack in all sections.

Building, Woodworking, etc.—In the building trades, employment, apart from a decline in the painting and decorating section, showed little change and remained slack, on the whole. As regards individual occupations, employment declined with painters, and showed a slight improvement with plasterers; with each of the other classes it remained at about the level of the previous month.

Employment in the furnishing trades showed a decline and continued slack; it declined also with coachbuilders and was very slack; with millers and millwrights it improved slightly but remained slack.

Paper Manufacture, Printing and Bookbinding.—In the paper-making industry employment continued moderate, on the whole; in the hand-made section it declined and was generally slack. With letterpress printers employment remained moderate, on the whole; with electrotypers and stereotypers it was fairly good generally, although a decline was reported at Leeds, Manchester and Glasgow. With lithographic printers employment continued bad or slack at most of the principal centres.

Pottery and Glass.—In the pottery industry, employment in North Staffordshire showed little change, and remained bad on the whole, with much short-time working. At Derby employment was slack; at Worcester it continued fair, and at Bristol moderate. In the stone-ware section in Scotland employment continued bad.

In the glass trades employment continued bad throughout; there was little change in the bottle-making section, but a decline in other sections was reported.

Fishing.—Employment with fishermen showed little change, and was slack on the whole.

Dock Labourers and Seamen.—Employment with dock labourers and seamen continued bad.

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

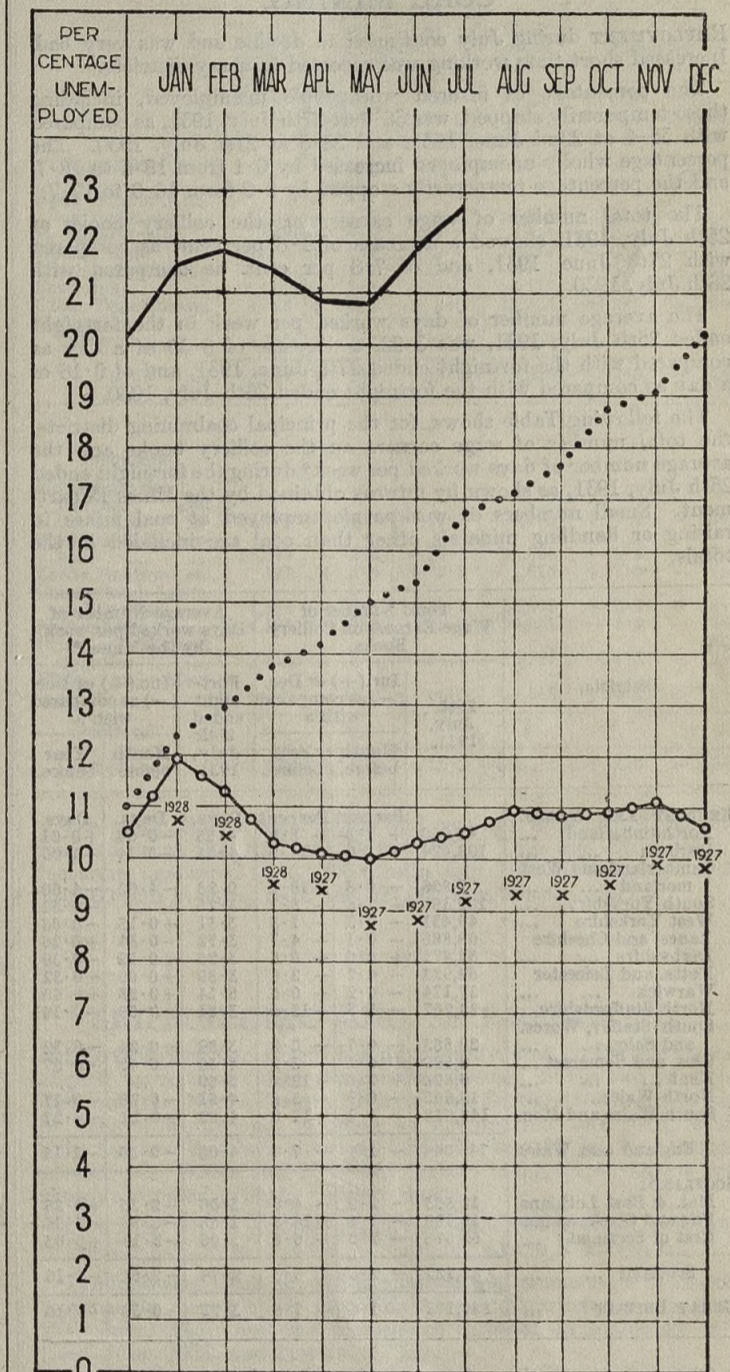
In Tables which appear on subsequent pages of this GAZETTE detailed statistics bearing on the state of employment during July are given, based on information obtained from employers or employers' associations in certain industries. In the following Tables some of the principal features of these statistics are briefly

UNEMPLOYMENT CHART.

PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AMONG WORKPEOPLE INSURED AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT IN GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND:—

Plain Curve = 1931. Dotted Curve = 1930. Chain Curve = Mean for 1923-25 and 1927-29.

The crosses indicate the minimum monthly percentages unemployed during the years 1923-25 and 1927-30. The maximum percentages in February to December of those years occurred in 1930. In January the maximum percentage of 13.3 occurred in 1923.



summarised (a) for certain mining and metal industries and (b) for various other industries:—

(a) CERTAIN MINING AND METAL INDUSTRIES.

Table with columns: Industry, Workpeople included in the Returns for July, 1931, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month before, Year before, Days Worked per week by Mines, Furnaces in Blast, Mills working, and Shifts Worked.

(b) OTHER INDUSTRIES.

Table with columns: Industry, Number of Workpeople Employed, Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople, Week ended 25th July, 1931, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before, Year before, and Per cent.

UNEMPLOYMENT SUMMARY BY DISTRICTS.

The following Table shows the variations in the rates of unemployment at 27th July, 1931, among insured persons in the respective divisions into which the country is divided for the purpose of the administration of the Unemployment Insurance Acts:—

Table with columns: Divisions, Estimated Numbers Insured, at July, 1930, Percentage Unemployed at 27th July, 1931, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Total Percentages as compared with a Month before, Year before.

UNEMPLOYMENT DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS.

The following Table shows, month by month from July, 1930, the percentages unemployed among insured workpeople, and the approximate number of applicants for employment registered at Employment Exchanges, etc., in Great Britain and Northern Ireland:—

Table with columns: Date, Males, Females, Wholly Unemployed and Casuals, Temporarily stopped, Total, Date, Number, Percentages Unemployed among Insured Workpeople, Numbers (Insured and Uninsured) registered at Employment Exchanges, etc.

* Comparison of earnings is affected by reductions in rates of wages.

NEW ENTRANTS INTO UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

APPLICATIONS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT BOOKS RECEIVED AT LOCAL OFFICES OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR IN GREAT BRITAIN DURING JULY, 1931.

Table with columns: Area, Men, Boys, Women, Girls, Total, Number, Percentage of numbers Insured at July, 1930.

The above figures are exclusive of cases in which, as the result of systematic search, duplication of applications has been discovered.

ENGINEERING.

EMPLOYMENT during July showed a further decline on the whole, and remained bad. The most pronounced decline was again in the motor vehicle section, in which employment was bad. In general and textile engineering it was very bad and showed a decline. Little change was shown in electrical engineering, in which section it remained slack, or in marine engineering, in which it remained very bad. In constructional engineering it was very bad, but showed an improvement compared with the previous month.

Compared with a year before, employment was much worse in all sections and in all areas, the greatest decline being in marine engineering.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, at 27th July, 1931, and the increase or decrease as compared with a month before and a year before:—

Table showing Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 27th July, 1931, and Percentages Unemployed at 27th July, 1931, by Division and Department.

On the North-East Coast employment remained very bad in general and marine engineering. In Yorkshire and Lincolnshire there was little change, and employment remained bad. In Lancashire and Cheshire it continued bad or very bad in all sections; in textile engineering the depression continued, with much short-time working.

In the Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Coventry district employment in the motor vehicle section showed a further decline, and was very bad; it remained bad in general engineering, and slack in the electrical section. In the Nottingham, Derby and Leicester district employment continued slack. In London and the Southern Counties employment remained quiet, but was much better than in other areas, though showing a continued and heavy decline in the motor vehicle section.

In Scotland there was a further decline in general engineering and employment was very bad. In Wales and Northern Ireland it was still very bad, but again showed a slight improvement.

COTTON INDUSTRY.

THE depression in the cotton industry continued during July, and employment on the whole was somewhat worse than in June. It was, however, not quite so bad, in most districts, as in July, 1930; and in several districts the improvement was substantial. The annual holidays were extended in some districts.

The percentage of insured workpeople recorded as unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 41.5 at 27th July, 1931, as compared with 39.6 at 22nd June, 1931, and with 44.7 at 21st July, 1930.

At Ashton-under-Lyne there was no material change in the spinning section, and short-time working was still prevalent in the weaving section. At Stockport employment continued bad, and at Hyde a decline was reported. Acute depression continued at Stalybridge and at Glossop.

At Oldham employment continued to be very bad in the spinning section, but was somewhat better than a year ago; production was reduced to about 45 per cent. of full capacity. In the manufacturing section employment continued very slack, and a large amount of machinery was idle. At Shaw some improvement was reported in the Egyptian spinning section. At Middleton short-time working continued in the American spinning section, but employment in the

Egyptian spinning section continued fairly good. At Radcliffe normal time was worked in the spinning of fine counts, the improvement reported last month being maintained, but short-time working continued to be largely worked in the American spinning section. At Reddish, three of the largest mule spinning firms were fully employed.

At Bolton employment with weavers and winders was described as fair, but it continued slack or bad in the other principal sections, though employment in the spinning section showed a slight improvement in the week before the annual holidays; in the weeks ended 11th and 18th July, after the holidays, about 37 per cent. of the operative cotton spinners were working less than half time. At Leigh there was some improvement, though employment in the spinning section continued bad. At Rochdale and at Bury employment continued depressed; at Bury it was even worse than in June.

At Preston there continued to be sectional stoppages in the spinning section, but in the weaving section there was some improvement, and it was reported that 60 per cent. of the machinery was running. There was no improvement at Chorley. At Blackburn there was a marked increase in the numbers unemployed; at the end of July, 76 mills were reported to be closed, out of a total of 130 in the Blackburn area, as compared with 70 at the beginning of the month. At Accrington almost half of the weaving sheds were closed down; and it was reported that the depression, which has now lasted for over two years, was the most prolonged in the history of the cotton trade in the district. At Darwen employment remained very bad. At Great Harwood the depression was general; 60 per cent. of the operatives were stated to be unemployed, and 30 per cent. of the weavers at work were minding two looms instead of four. At Burnley employment was very bad; some firms were running only alternate weeks, others closing for a week occasionally; it was reported that half the operatives were unemployed or under-employed. At Padiham employment was bad, and showed a decline. At Nelson several firms extended the holiday stoppage. In the Rossendale Valley employment continued very bad; here also some firms extended the holiday stoppage.

In Yorkshire employment was bad at most of the principal centres, and even worse than in June; about 70 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the employers' returns for the week ended 25th July were on short time, losing 11 hours each on the average.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished returns:—

Table summarising information received from employers, showing Total Wages paid to all Workpeople and Percentages Unemployed at 27th July, 1931, by Departments and Districts.

Returns from firms employing about 56,800 operatives in the week ended 25th July, showed that about 26 per cent. were on short time in that week, with a loss of over 15 hours each on an average.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women (other than casuals) on the registers of Employment Exchanges in the principal cotton trade centres at 27th July, 1931:—

Table showing Numbers (excluding Casuals) on the Registers at 27th July, 1931, by Department, showing Wholly Unemployed and Temporarily Stopped.

The following Table shows the increases and decreases as compared with 22nd June, 1931:—

Table showing increases and decreases as compared with 22nd June, 1931, by Department, showing Wholly Unemployed, Temporarily Stopped, and Total.

The imports (less re-exports), of raw cotton (including cotton linters) were 49,342,700 lbs. in July, 1931, compared with 71,988,200 lbs. in June, 1931, and with 36,523,800 lbs. in July, 1930.

The exports of cotton yarn were 11,273,400 lbs. in July, 1931, compared with 9,568,400 lbs. in June, 1931, and with 10,433,100 lbs. in July, 1930.

The exports of cotton piece goods in July, 1931, were 177,319,300 square yards, compared with 132,821,000 square yards in the previous month, and 197,385,100 square yards in July, 1930.

WOOL TEXTILE INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT continued very slack; it was considerably worse than a month earlier in the worsted section, and showed little change in the woollen section. In the carpet section employment was very slack, and showed a further decline.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed in the woollen and worsted industries, including those temporarily stopped, was 36.0 at 27th July, 1931, as compared with 32.8 at 22nd June, 1931, and with 26.1 at 21st July, 1930.

Worsted Section.—Employment continued bad, and was worse than a month earlier.

At Bradford, Keighley and Huddersfield the position was worse than in the previous month; much short time and unemployment were reported at all these centres. At Halifax short time was prevalent. At Armsley employment remained very slack, and showed a decline; even where mills were working on a short-time basis, a proportion of the machinery was unused. In the worsted section as a whole, returns from employers for the week ended 25th July showed that about 48 per cent. of the operatives worked short time,* losing 15½ hours each on an average; about 4 per cent. were on overtime, to the extent of 7 hours each.

With wool sorters employment was bad, with much short time, and showed a further decline as compared with the previous month; it was also worse than a year ago. In the combing department the volume of employment (except when affected for a few days by the dispute which took place in July) was about the same as during June. About 53 per cent. of the operatives covered by the employers' returns in the sorting, combing, and preparing departments lost, on an average, about 19 hours in short time in the week ended 25th July.

In the worsted spinning department employment continued bad. About 47 per cent. of the operatives covered by the employers' returns worked short time in the week ended 25th July, losing, on an average, about 14 hours each.

In the worsted weaving department employment showed a marked decline. About 53 per cent. of the operatives covered by the employers' returns worked short time in the week ended 25th July, losing, on an average, 16 hours each.*

In each of the three departments—sorting and combing, spinning, and weaving—about 4 per cent. of the operatives covered by the employers' returns worked overtime in the week ended 25th July, to the extent of six or eight hours each, on the average.

Woollen Section.—Employment was bad, and showed little change, on the whole, as compared with the previous month. Employers' returns for the week ended 25th July showed that 56 per cent. of the workers both in the spinning and in the weaving departments were on short time,* losing nearly 13 hours each on an average in each department. In the woollen section as a whole, 53 per cent. of the operatives lost, on an average, about 13 hours each, in short time* in the week ended 25th July; in the spinning department 7 per cent. of the operatives worked overtime to the extent of about 8 hours each on the average; in the woollen section as a whole 4 per cent. of the operatives worked overtime to the extent of 8 hours each, on the average.

In the Huddersfield and Colne Valley district employment was worse than a month earlier; there was still a small amount of overtime and night work, but less than for some considerable time. In the Heavy Woollen District (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) employment continued bad, though it compared favourably with the extremely depressed conditions in other districts, and there was a slight improvement before the holiday stoppage. Employment in the rag and shoddy trade was described as very bad. In the blanket trade, employment generally remained poor, but some full-time working was reported at Hebden Bridge.

* The figures given in this article as to short time do not take into account other forms of under-employment, such as "playing for warps," and tending one instead of two looms.

In the Stockport district employment with woollen workers continued very poor. In the Rochdale district employment with flannel workers was still very slack, and many firms extended the holiday stoppage in July. There was a slight improvement at Shaw. Irregular short-time working continued in the Saddleworth district.

In the West of England employment remained fairly regular at Trowbridge, but the depression continued at the other principal centres. In Wales employment generally continued very slack.

In Scotland employment on the whole showed little change; short time was very prevalent, and production in the tweed industry as a whole was stated to be not more than half the full capacity. Increased slackness was reported at Galashiels; orders for the winter season were said to be completed, and repeat orders were insufficient to keep the operatives on full time. Some improvement, however, was reported in the tweed industry at Dumfries. All the firms at Alloa were reported to be on short time.

Carpet Section.—Employment continued very slack. At Kidderminster employment continued bad, and was about the same as in June, most of the firms being on short time. In Yorkshire employment was described as poor, and there was no improvement. In Scotland employment was below normal, and some firms extended the holiday stoppage; with some firms in the Axminster section, however, the position was described as satisfactory.

In the carpet industry as a whole, 52 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the employers' returns were on short time in the week ended 25th July, losing 16 hours each on an average; little or no overtime was recorded.

The following Table summarises the returns received from employers:—

Table summarising returns received from employers, showing Number of Workpeople, Total Wages paid to all Workpeople, and Departmental breakdown.

* Comparison with 1926 is affected by reductions in rates of wages. † Most of the districts are indicated by the names of their principal towns but neighbouring towns and areas are included in each case.

The following Tables show, by districts and by departments, the percentage increases and decreases in the numbers employed in the week ended 25th July, 1931, by those firms who supplied returns for the purpose of the foregoing Table (excluding the carpet section), as compared with the week ended 27th June, 1931:—

Table with columns for Department, Percentage Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in numbers employed as compared with previous month, and sub-columns for Wool Sorting and Combing, Spinning, Weaving, Other Depts., and All Depts. (including not specified).

Table with columns for Department, Percentage Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in numbers employed as compared with previous month, and sub-columns for Spinning, Weaving, Other Depts., and All Depts. (including not specified).

The following Table shows the number of men and of women (other than casuals) on the registers of Employment Exchanges in the principal wool textile trade centres at 27th July, 1931:—

Table with columns for Department, Numbers (excluding Casuals) on the Registers at 27th July, 1931, and sub-columns for Wholly Unemployed and Temporarily Stopped, with Men, Women, and Total counts.

The following Table shows the increases and decreases as compared with 22nd June, 1931:—

Table with columns for Department, Wholly Unemployed, Temporarily Stopped, and Total, with sub-columns for Men, Women, and Total counts.

The imports (less re-exports) of raw wool (sheep's or lambs') were 20,687,500 lbs. in July, 1931, compared with 36,807,200 lbs. in the previous month and 31,056,700 lbs. in July, 1930.

The exports of woollen and worsted yarns were 3,516,300 lbs. compared with 2,578,100 lbs. in June, 1931, and with 3,249,100 lbs. in July, 1930.

The exports of woollen and worsted tissues in July, 1931, were 8,719,800 square yards, compared with 6,118,000 square yards in the previous month, and with 10,115,900 square yards in July, 1930.

The exports of blankets were 43,761 pairs, 28,675 pairs, and 55,800 pairs in July, 1931, June, 1931, and July, 1930, respectively.

BOOT AND SHOE INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during July continued moderate at most establishments, but showed a decline as compared with the previous month; it was rather below the level of July, 1930, at most centres. The pressure to complete orders before the holidays that was formerly usual at the end of July was almost entirely absent this year.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 23.5 at 27th July, 1931, as compared with 20.4 at 22nd June, 1931, and with 18.1 at 21st July, 1930.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished returns for the three periods:—

Table with columns for Districts, Number of Workpeople, Total Wages paid to all Workpeople, and sub-columns for Week ended 25th July, 1931, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before, Year before, and Per cent.

Returns received from firms employing about 52,300 workpeople in the week ended 25th July indicated that almost exactly half of this number were on short time in that week, losing about 10 hours each on the average; there was very little overtime.

Employment in London showed a further decline, and was slack or moderate at most establishments. At Leicester employment continued slack; in the week ended 25th July, nearly two-thirds of the operatives covered by the employers' returns were on short time, losing 12 hours each on the average. In the Leicester country district there was a further decline, and employment was bad, with many firms working short time. Employment remained slack generally at Northampton, and was decidedly worse than in July, 1930.

In the Bristol and Kingswood district there was a further improvement, and employment was moderate to fair; a number of firms worked full time, and others were able to reduce the amount of short time. At Leeds employment showed a decline and was bad, short time being worked at nearly all factories. In the slipper trade in Lancashire employment showed a slight improvement, but it remained bad at Bacup and at Rawtenstall, where it was worse than for several years past; it remained moderate at Bury.

In Scotland there was a further slight improvement, on the whole. At Maybole employment was reported as good, and better than in June; much short time was worked at Edinburgh, and employment at Kilmarnock was reported as bad.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women (other than casuals) on the registers of Employment Exchanges in the principal centres of the boot and shoe industry at 27th July, 1931:—

Table with columns for Department, Numbers (excluding Casuals) on the Registers at 27th July, 1931, and sub-columns for Wholly Unemployed and Temporarily Stopped, with Men, Women, and Total counts.

The following Table shows the increases and decreases as compared with 22nd June, 1931:—

Table with columns for Department, Wholly Unemployed, Temporarily Stopped, and Total, with sub-columns for Men, Women, and Total counts.

The exports of boots and shoes in July, 1931, amounted to 80,208 dozen pairs, or 12,232 dozen pairs more than in June, 1931, but 19,697 dozen pairs less than in July, 1930.

BRICK INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during July showed little change, and continued moderate, on the whole.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 16.4 at 27th July, 1931, the same as at 22nd June, 1931, as compared with 12.3 at 21st July, 1930.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished returns for the three periods under review:—

Table with columns for Districts, Number of Workpeople, Total Wages paid to all Workpeople, and sub-columns for Week ended 25th July, 1931, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before, Year before, and Per cent.

Returns from employers relative to short-time working, exclusive of time lost on account of bad weather, showed that, of 9,712 workpeople employed by firms furnishing information, nearly 3 per cent. were working on an average about 12½ hours less than full time in the week ended 25th July, 1931; on the other hand, about 2 per cent. were working overtime to the extent of nearly 5 hours each, on the average.

BUILDING.

APART from a decline in the painting and decorating section, employment during July showed little change as compared with the previous month and remained slack, on the whole. It was reported as good at Hull and Oxford, however, and as fair or fairly good at a few other centres, including Bristol, Preston, St. Helens

and Southend-on-Sea. As compared with July, 1930, employment was worse in each administrative division.

As regards individual occupations employment declined with painters and showed a slight improvement with plasterers; with each of the other classes it remained at about the level of the previous month. Employment was moderate to slack with bricklayers and masons; very slack with carpenters, slaters, plasterers, painters and tradesmen's labourers, and bad with plumbers. As compared with July, 1930, there was a marked decline with each class of worker.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts who were recorded as unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, at 27th July, 1931, together with the increase or decrease as compared with the previous month and with July, 1930:—

Table with columns for Occupations, Divisions, Estimated Numbers of Insured Workpeople at July, 1930, Total Numbers Unemployed at 27th July, 1931, Number included in Previous Column who were Temporarily Stopped, Per cent. Unemployed, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Percentage as compared with a Month before, and Year before.

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

Returns from Local Authorities in 142 of the principal urban areas in Great Britain (except the London County Council area), with a total population of 16,119,000, show that in July, 1931, plans were passed for buildings of an estimated cost of £7,252,400, as compared with £5,075,400 in June, 1931, and £6,498,700 in July, 1930. Of the total for July, 1931, dwelling-houses accounted for £5,143,100; factories and workshops for £207,400; shops, offices, warehouses and other business premises for £592,200; and other buildings, and additions and alterations to existing buildings, for £1,309,700.

POTTERY INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT in North Staffordshire showed little change, and was bad on the whole, with much short-time working. At Derby employment was slack; at Worcester it continued fair, and at Bristol moderate. In the stoneware section in Scotland employment continued bad.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 37.0 at 27th July, 1931, as compared with 36.5 at 22nd June, 1931, and 26.9 at 21st July, 1930.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished returns for the three periods:—

Table with columns for Branches, Districts, Number of Workpeople, Total Wages paid to all Workpeople, and sub-columns for Week ended 25th July, 1931, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before, Year before, and Per cent.

Returns from employers relative to short-time working showed that, of 9,066 workpeople employed by firms making returns, 4,322, or nearly 48 per cent., were working on an average about 16 hours less than full time in the week ended 25th July, 1931; the amount of overtime worked was very small.

* Comparison of earnings is affected by reductions in rates of wages.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED INDUSTRIES.

The statistics here presented show, industry by industry, the estimated number of persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, the number and percentage of such persons who were unemployed on 27th July, 1931, and the increase or decrease at that date in the total percentages unemployed compared with a month earlier, a year before, and two years before, respectively.

The Unemployment Insurance Acts provide, subject to certain exceptions, for the compulsory insurance against unemployment of substantially all employed persons. The principal classes of persons who are exempted from such compulsory insurance are juveniles under 16 years of age and (since 2nd January, 1928) persons aged 65 and over, persons employed otherwise than by way of manual labour at a rate of remuneration exceeding in value £250 per annum, persons employed in agriculture and private domestic service, and outworkers. Persons employed by local public authorities, railways and certain other public utility undertakings, members of the police forces, and persons with rights under a statutory superannuation scheme may, in certain circumstances, also be exempted.

An unemployment book, on which is recorded, inter alia, the industry in which he is employed, is issued to every insured person, and this book must be lodged at an Employment Exchange whenever the insured person to whom it relates makes a claim for unemployment benefit, or, without claiming benefit, ceases to be employed in an insured trade. The book must be removed and deposited with the employer for stamping as soon as employment in an insured trade is resumed.

The files of "lodged" books at the Employment Exchanges thus furnish for each industrial group a record of the unemployment of insured persons. In arriving at this figure the books of those persons who are known to be working in an uninsured trade, or to be sick or deceased, or who are known to have emigrated or gone abroad, are of course excluded. In cases where information on these points is lacking the books remain in the "lodged" files, and are included in the statistics of unemployment, for a period of two months from the date on which the insured person was last in touch with the Employment Exchange.

The numbers unemployed given in the following Table relate only to persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts. They include insured persons who are maintaining registration at Employment Exchanges, together with those whose unemployment books remain lodged in the "two months" file referred to above. The figures given on page 309 relating to persons registered at Employment Exchanges include uninsured as well as insured persons who are maintaining registration for employment, but not insured persons whose books are in the two months file.

A Table showing the composition of the two series of figures is given on page 309.

Insured persons who are disqualified for the receipt of unemployment benefit under the trade dispute disqualification are not included in the numbers unemployed, unless they are definitely maintaining registration for other employment.

The statistics of unemployment in insured industries are presented in two separate Tables, one showing the numbers recorded as unemployed, and the other showing the estimated numbers insured and the percentages unemployed.

Special Note. Persons aged 65 and over.

Under the provisions of the Widows', Orphans', and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act, 1925, all persons aged 65 and over ceased to be insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts as from 2nd January, 1928. (The employers of such persons, however, are required to pay contributions at the employer's rates.) The estimates of the numbers of insured persons in each industry prepared on the basis of the information obtained from the exchange of unemployment books, therefore, no longer include persons aged 65 and over. Such persons do not now appear in the statistics showing the number of insured persons recorded as unemployed, and the figures for dates subsequent to 2nd January, 1928, are therefore not comparable with those for earlier dates. For all practical purposes, however, the percentages unemployed can be regarded as comparable with the corresponding figures published each month since July, 1923.

NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS RECORDED AS UNEMPLOYED AT 27th JULY, 1931.

Table with columns for Industry, Great Britain and Northern Ireland (Wholly Unemployed, Temporary Stoppages, Total), and Great Britain Only (Wholly Unemployed, Temporary Stoppages, Total). Rows include Fishing, Mining, Non-Metalliferous Mining Products, Brick, Tile, etc., Pottery, Glass, Chemicals, Metal Manufacture, Engineering, and Construction and Repair of Vehicles.

GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.

GREAT BRITAIN ONLY.

Main table with columns for Industry, Wholly Unemployed (including Casuals), Temporary Stoppages, Total, and sub-columns for Males, Females, Total for each category. Rows include Metal Trades, Textile Trades, Leather and Leather Goods, Clothing Trades, Food, Drink and Tobacco, Sawmilling and Furniture and Woodwork, Printing and Paper Trades, Building and Public Works Contracting, Other Manufacturing Industries, Gas, Water and Electricity Supply, Transport and Communication, Commerce, Banking, Insurance and Finance, and Miscellaneous Trades and Services.

* Including 114,188 Casuals (Males, 111,978; Females, 2,210).

NUMBERS INSURED AND PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED.

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AT JULY, 1930, PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 27TH JULY, 1931 (Wholly Unemployed, Temporary Stoppages, Total), INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES AS COMPARED WITH (22ND JUNE, 1931, 21ST JULY, 1930, 22ND JULY, 1929), GREAT BRITAIN ONLY, TOTAL PERCENTAGES AT 27TH JULY, 1931.

* For 22nd July, 1929, separate figures for each of the two sections are not available.

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AT JULY, 1930 (Males, Females, Total), PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 27TH JULY, 1931 (Wholly Unemployed, Temporary Stoppages, Total), INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES AS COMPARED WITH (22ND JUNE, 1931, 21ST JULY, 1930, 22ND JULY, 1929), GREAT BRITAIN ONLY, TOTAL PERCENTAGES AT 27TH JULY, 1931.

NUMBERS OF INSURED WORKPEOPLE UNEMPLOYED.

PROPORTIONS IN VARIOUS INDUSTRY GROUPS. In the following Table the numbers of insured workpeople recorded as unemployed in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 27th July, 1931, are analysed so as to show the proportion of the total unemployed classified as belonging to various industry groups:—

Table with columns: Industry Group, Males (Number Wholly Unemployed, Percentage of Total, Number Temporarily Stopped, Percentage of Total), Females (Number Wholly Unemployed, Percentage of Total, Number Temporarily Stopped, Percentage of Total), Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Numbers recorded as Unemployed at 27th July, 1931, as compared with 22nd June, 1931.

PRINCIPAL VARIATIONS IN NUMBERS UNEMPLOYED.

THE following Table indicates for Great Britain and Northern Ireland the industries in which the numbers of insured persons recorded as unemployed at 27th July, 1931, differed from the figures for 22nd June, 1931, to the extent of 1,000 or more:—

Table with columns: Industry, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Numbers recorded as Unemployed at 27th July, 1931, as compared with 22nd June, 1931 (Males, Females, Total).

JUVENILE UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS.

NUMBERS OF JUVENILES AGED 14 AND UNDER 18 ON THE REGISTERS OF EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES AND JUVENILE EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX AT 27TH JULY, 1931.

Table with 6 columns: Division, Insured 16 and under 18, Uninsured 14 and under 18, Total, Insured 16 and under 18, Uninsured 14 and under 18, Total. Rows include London, South-Eastern, South-Western, Midlands, North-Eastern, North-Western, Scotland, Wales, and Great Britain.

JUVENILES PLACED IN EMPLOYMENT. FIVE WEEKS ENDED 6TH JULY, 1931.

Table with 7 columns: Division, Boys, Girls, Total, Boys, Girls, Total. Columns represent Number of Vacancies Filled and Juveniles placed in first situation since leaving School.

PERCENTAGE RATES OF UNEMPLOYMENT* AMONG INSURED JUVENILES AGED 16 AND 17.

Table with 9 columns: Division, Boys, Girls, Total, Boys, Girls, Total, Boys, Girls, Total. Columns represent Estimated number insured at July, 1930, and Percentage unemployed at 27th July, 1931.

JUVENILES IN ATTENDANCE AT APPROVED COURSES OF INSTRUCTION DURING WEEK ENDED 29TH JULY, 1931.

Table with 12 columns: Division, Claimants, Non-Claimants, Total, Boys, Girls, Boys, Girls, Boys, Girls, Boys, Girls, Total. Columns represent Average Daily Attendances and Total No. of Separate Individuals who have attended since 1st April, 1931.

There were 45 Junior Instruction Centres for boys, 14 for girls, and 21 mixed centres open in Great Britain during the week. In addition, there were 9 Junior Instruction Classes for boys, 4 for girls, and 3 mixed classes. The number of other Institutions to which unemployed juveniles were admitted was: 1 for boys, 2 for girls and 1 mixed. The attendances at these Institutions are mainly in the evening. Fifty-four centres and 10 classes were closed for holidays.

* Based on the numbers of Juvenile Unemployment Books lodged at Local Offices, which exceed the numbers of insured juveniles on the Register.

DETERMINATION OF CLAIMS TO UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT IN GREAT BRITAIN.

9TH JUNE TO 13TH JULY, 1931.

THE following Table gives, for the period from 9th June to 13th July, 1931, inclusive, the number of claims to benefit made at local offices in Great Britain, the average number of claims current during that period, an analysis of the decisions of Courts of Referees and of the Umpire, the number of cases disallowed by Insurance Officers under the trade dispute disqualification, and of the appeals against such disallowances dealt with by Courts of Referees.

A.—Number of Claims.

Table with 5 columns: Men, Women, Juveniles, Total. Rows include Fresh and renewal claims made and Average number of claims current.

B.—Decisions of Courts of Referees.

Table with 4 columns: Benefit Allowed, Benefit Disallowed, Total. Rows include First Statutory Condition (applies to juveniles only), Less than 8 contributions paid in past 2 years, Employment left voluntarily without just cause, Not normally insurable, Employment lost through misconduct, Failure or refusal to apply for or accept suitable employment, Other grounds.

Table with 4 columns: Benefit Allowed, Benefit Disallowed, Total. Rows include Employment left voluntarily without just cause.

Table with 4 columns: Benefit Allowed, Benefit Disallowed, Total. Rows include Employment lost through misconduct.

Table with 4 columns: Benefit Allowed, Benefit Disallowed, Total. Rows include Failure or refusal to apply for or accept suitable employment.

Table with 4 columns: Benefit Allowed, Benefit Disallowed, Total. Rows include Not unemployed.

Table with 4 columns: Benefit Allowed, Benefit Disallowed, Total. Rows include Not capable of work, or not available for work.

Table with 4 columns: Benefit Allowed, Benefit Disallowed, Total. Rows include Other grounds.

Table with 4 columns: Benefit Allowed, Benefit Disallowed, Total. Rows include Grand Total.

C.—Trade Dispute* Cases.

Table with 4 columns: Benefit Allowed, Benefit Disallowed, Total. Rows include Cases dealt with by Insurance Officers, Appeals against disallowances by Insurance Officers, Courts of Referees, Total Appeals.

* The decisions of Courts of Referees, and of the Umpire, on trade dispute disallowances refer largely to test cases. The total number of individuals affected by such decisions may be considerably in excess of the figures shown in the Table.

D.—Decisions by Umpire.*

Table with 4 columns: Benefit Allowed, Benefit Disallowed, Total. Rows include Appeals by Insurance Officers, Appeals by Associations, Appeals by Claimants, Grand Total.

CUMULATIVE FIGURES, 10TH MARCH TO 13TH JULY, 1931.

Table with 4 columns: Benefit Allowed, Benefit Disallowed, Total. Rows include Decisions of Courts of Referees.

Table with 4 columns: Benefit Allowed, Benefit Disallowed, Total. Rows include Trade Dispute* Cases, Decisions by Umpire.*

WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED BENEFIT CLAIMANTS.

ANALYSIS ACCORDING TO LENGTH OF TIME ON THE REGISTER.

THE following Table gives an analysis of the claimants for unemployment benefit who were out of a situation and were on the Registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain at 27th July, 1931, according to the length of time they had been on the Register since they last became unemployed. While the figures give an indication of the number classified as wholly unemployed who have had recent employment, they do not purport to show the extent to which these individuals have experienced unemployment over an extended period.

Table with 10 columns: Persons who had been on the Register, Total. Columns represent length of time on the register (1 week, 2 weeks, 3 weeks, 4 weeks, or less, More than 4 weeks). Rows include Men, Young men, Boys, Women, Young women, Girls, Total.

* The decisions of Courts of Referees, and of the Umpire, on trade dispute disallowances refer largely to test cases. The total number of individuals affected by such decisions may be considerably in excess of the figures shown in the Table.

INSURED UNEMPLOYED.

POSITION UNDER FIRST STATUTORY CONDITION.

THE following Table gives an analysis of the numbers of insured persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain at 27th July, 1931, relative to their position with regard to the First Statutory Condition for the receipt of unemployment benefit, in all cases in which the position under that condition had been determined. This condition requires the payment of not less than 30 contributions in the preceding two years. In cases where this condition is not satisfied, adults, but not boys and girls, may receive benefit conditionally upon the fulfilment of the special "transitional" conditions set out in Section 14 (2) of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1927, as amended by the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1930.

Table with 6 columns: Men, Boys, Women, Girls, Total. Rows include Position with regard to First Statutory Condition, Wholly unemployed, Temporarily stopped, Casual claimants, Insured non-claimants.

Percentages.

Table with 6 columns: Men, Boys, Women, Girls, Total. Rows include Wholly unemployed, Temporarily stopped, Casual claimants, Total (including non-claimants).

UNEMPLOYMENT FUND.

THE following Table shows approximately the receipts and payments and the liabilities of the Fund:—

Table with 4 columns: Four weeks ended 25th July, 1931, Four weeks ended 27th June, 1931, Four weeks ended 26th July, 1930. Rows include Contributions received from Employers, Employed Persons, Exchequer, Unemployment Benefit, Cost of Administration, Interest accrued on Treasury Advances, Other Items, Treasury Advances outstanding, Other Liabilities.

A detailed account of the Fund is presented to Parliament annually. (See House of Commons Paper No. 25 of 1931 for the period ended 31st March, 1930.)

* Non-claimants are not in receipt of benefit. They have all failed to satisfy the First Statutory Condition, and the adults have also failed to satisfy the Transitional Conditions.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING JULY, 1931 (continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)
Brick and Tile Making.	North Staffordshire	27 June	Brick and tile makers ...	Decreases of 4s. per full ordinary week for timeworkers and of 10 per cent. for pieceworkers. Minimum rate after change for labourers, 1s. per hour.
Drugs and Fine Chemicals.	Great Britain ...	July (various dates).	Workpeople employed in the manufacture and wholesale distribution of drugs, druggists' sundries, proprietary medicines and essences.	Decreases of 3s. per week for men 21 and over, of 1s. 6d. or 2s. per week for women 21 and over and of proportionate amounts for those under 21. Minimum rates after change for workers 21 and over: men—Grade I, 60s.; Grade II, 55s.; Grade III, 50s.; women—Grade I, 34s.; Grade II, 28s. 6d.
Heavy Chemical Manufacture.	London firms* (certain firms)	Pay preceding 10 July.	Workpeople employed by heavy chemical manufacturers.	Decreases of ½d. per hour for dayworkers, 5d. per shift for shiftworkers, and 2s. 6d. per week for pieceworkers. Rates after change: day workers, 1s. 2½d.; shift workers, 1s. 3½d. per hour; those employed in the Silvertown area, 1d. per hour more.
Pig Iron Manufacture.	Cleveland and Durham.	5 July	Blastfurnacemen ...	Decrease† of 1½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 1 per cent. above the standard of 1919 (plus, in some cases, an output or input bonus). Minimum rate after change for scale labourers, 6s. per shift, plus 1 per cent.
	Tees-side ... West Cumberland and North Lancashire.		2nd full pay in July.	Workpeople (excluding craftsmen and bricklayers on maintenance work) employed at blastfurnaces.
	North Staffordshire	1st making-up day in July.	Tonnagemen employed at blastfurnaces.	Increase† of 3½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 3½ per cent. above the standard.
	Northamptonshire ...	Pay preceding 1st day in Aug.	Blastfurnacemen ...	Decrease† of 1½ per cent. on standard rates of 1930, leaving wages 16½ per cent. above the standard. Rates after change: general labourers, 5s. 4d. per shift (average); by-turn labourers, 5s. 5d. per shift (average); plus, in each case, 16½ per cent.
	North-East Coast Area.	27 July	Iron puddlers and millmen ...	Increase† of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 24½ and 22 per cent. above the standard for puddlers and millmen respectively.
Iron and Steel Manufacture.	West of Scotland ...	27 July	Iron puddlers and millmen and sheet millmen.	Increase† of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, making a minimum percentage addition of 40 to standard rates.
	Various districts in Great Britain.†	1st full pay after 4 July.	Steel sheet millmen:— Mill squad ...	Decrease of 5 per cent. on basis rates, leaving wages 20 per cent. above base for rollers, furnacemen and shearers, and 27½ or 32½ per cent. above base for other occupations.†
			Subsidiary men on tonnage rates.	Decrease of 2½ per cent. on basis rates over 45s. and up to 50s. per week, and of 5 per cent. on higher rates, leaving wages at percentages above base varying from 27½ per cent. on basis rates over 45s. up to 50s. to 20 per cent. on basis rates over 60s. Men on basis rates of 45s. or under to remain at same level as previously, viz., 32½ to 40 per cent. above base (according to basis rates), with a minimum total wage (as previously) of 45s. for a normal week.†
			Subsidiary men on day rates...	Decreases varying usually from 2½ to 7½ per cent. on basis rates (no change for men on basis rates of 31s. 6d. or under), leaving wages at same percentages above base rates as in case of tonnage men (see above), with a minimum total wage (as previously) of 45s. per week.†
Boys ...	1st full pay after 25 July.	Boys ...	Decrease of 2½ per cent. (35 to 32½ per cent.) on basis rates.†	
		Workpeople employed in the engineering and allied industries;— On systems of payment by results.	Piecework prices and bonus or basis times, where previously fixed so as to enable a workman of average ability to earn at least 33½ per cent. above time rates, reduced to yield at least 25 per cent. above time rates, and higher percentages, where agreed or recognised, reduced in the ratio of 33½ to 25.†	
Engineering and Allied Industries.‡	Great Britain and Northern Ireland.‡	6 July	On nightshift ... On double dayshift and/or three-shift system.	Payment to be at the rate of time and one-sixth (generally in lieu of time and a third).§ Rates of payment reduced for first, second and third shifts (consisting respectively of 43, 37½ and 31½ hours work per week) to 45 hours pay (in lieu of 47 hours) for each of the first and second shifts and to 47 hours (in lieu of 50 hours) for the third shift.¶
Galvanising	England and Wales	1st full pay week after 4 July.¶	Workpeople employed in galvanising departments (excluding process of annealing).	Decreases varying usually from 2½ to 7½ per cent. on base rates, leaving wages at percentages above base rates varying (according to base rates) from 40 per cent. on base rates over 31s. 6d. and up to 33s. per week to 20 per cent. on base rates over 60s., subject to a minimum total wage (as previously operative) of 45s. for a normal week.¶
Chain Manufacture.	Great Britain ...	1 July	Workpeople (mainly female workers) employed in making hand-hammered chain from iron up to and including ½ in. diameter.	Decrease** of 5 per cent. on the general minimum time rates as fixed under Trade Boards Acts at 1st November, 1923, and on piecework rates as fixed, varied and extended under Trade Boards Acts at 5th November, 1928. General minimum time rate after change for adult workers, 5-3d. per hour.††
			Workpeople employed in making drolled and tumbled chain from iron No. 6 I.S.W.G. up to and including ½ in. diameter, and hand-hammered chain from iron ½ in. up to and including ½ in. diameter.	Decrease** of 5 per cent. on the general minimum time rates and piecework rates as varied under Trade Boards Acts at 1st February, 1924, and on piecework rates as fixed, varied or extended under Trade Boards Acts at 16th August, 1926. General minimum time rate after change for lowest-paid adult workers, 1s. 1d. per hour.††
	Cradley Heath and District, Chester, Stoke and Pontypridd.	1st full pay day in July.	Commercial end-welded drolled and tumbled chain makers (except those whose wages are regulated by the Chain Trade Board) and cable shackle makers. Admiralty end-welded chain makers Side-welded chain makers ... Anchor and grapnel makers ...	Decrease** of 5 per cent. on list prices, leaving prices 20 per cent. below the lists of 1922. Decrease** of 5 per cent. on list prices, leaving prices 15 per cent. below the lists of 1922. Decrease** of amounts varying from 2d. to 4½d. per cut. Decrease** of 3d. per cut.

* The reduction described is in accordance with an agreement made between the London Chemical Manufacturers' Convention and the National Union of General and Municipal Workers.
 † Under selling-price sliding-scale arrangements.
 ‡ The above changes—which took effect under the terms of an Award made by Sir Harold Morris dated 4th July, 1931, and are to operate for 12 months from that date—affect firms who are members of the Sheet Trade (Conciliation) Board, and whose mills are situated principally in Staffordshire, Cheshire, Tees-side, South Wales and Monmouthshire, and the Glasgow District. The Award provided that, in the event of the sliding scale percentage being increased under the ascertainment, the advances should merge in those cases where the men are receiving percentages greater than the ascertainment percentages.
 § The new arrangements summarised above, which represent a change in working conditions, as distinct from a change in the ordinary time rates of wages, are in accordance with the terms of an agreement made between the Engineering and Allied Employers' National Federation and the trade unions concerned (details of which were given on page 255 of July GAZETTE). The agreement also made new provisions relating to rates of pay for overtime on dayshift and nightshift. It is reported that the terms of the agreement have been applied to the employees of many non-federated firms in various districts, in some cases from a later date in July than shown above. At Middlesbrough an agreement was made between a group of such firms and the trade unions whereby the terms of the agreement, with certain modifications, were to apply with effect from the beginning of the first pay period in August, 1931.
 ¶ The changes applied generally to workpeople employed in all federated establishments who are working under engineering conditions, while excluding workpeople who "work in, or in conjunction with, branches of industry not at present subject to engineering conditions."
 † The above changes—which took effect under the terms of an Award made by Sir Harold Morris, dated 4th July, 1931, and are to operate for 12 months from that date—affect firms who are members of the Galvanising Conciliation Board.
 ** Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements.
 †† See Notice of Order on page 287 of July GAZETTE.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING JULY, 1931 (continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)
Electrical Cable Manufacture.	Great Britain ...	Pay preceding 3rd day in July.	Workpeople employed in the electrical cable-making industry (except plumber-jointers, etc.).	Decrease* of 1s. 11½d. or 2s. per week for men 21 years of age and over, of 1s. 5½d. or 1s. 6d. per week for youths 18 to 20 years, of 5½d. or 6d. per week for youths and girls 14 to 17 years, and of 1s. per week for women 18 years and over; pieceworkers' wages to be correspondingly reduced. Rates after change for lowest grades: men 21 years and over, 43s. 6d. or 48s. 11½d. (according to district); women, 18 years and over, 25s. 6d.
Table and butcher blade grinders...	Sheffield ...	1 July	Table and butcher blade grinders...	Bonus addition to datal rate and piecework earnings reduced by 7½ per cent., leaving rates after change: datal workers—1s. per hour, plus 37½ per cent. bonus; pieceworkers—piecework earnings, plus 37½ per cent. bonus, plus 12½ per cent. poundage, where no charge for trough rent and light is made by employer; piecework earnings, plus 37½ per cent. bonus, plus 25 per cent. poundage, where charge is made by employer for trough rent and light.
		1 July	Pen and pocket blade forgers, smithers, markers and hardeners.	Bonus addition to piecework earnings reduced by 8½ per cent. for hand-forged blades, shut-up work, and by 10 per cent. for all other classes, leaving the following bonuses payable on piecework earnings:—hand-forged blades, shut-up work, 10 per cent.; hand-forged blades, fast handle work, 25 per cent.; pruner blade forgers, 17½ per cent.; marking and hardening all blades, and smithing rustless blades, 5 per cent.
		1 July	Spring knife cutlers, grinders and finishers.	Bonus addition to datal rates and piecework earnings reduced by 5 per cent., leaving the following bonuses payable on such rates and earnings:—spring knife cutlers—datal workers, 10d. per hour, plus 40 per cent.; pieceworkers, 17½ per cent. where employer makes no charge for side rent and light; 20 per cent. where employer makes a charge for side rent and light; spring knife grinders and finishers—datal workers, 1s. per hour, plus 35 per cent.; pieceworkers, 10 per cent. where employer makes no charge for trough rent and light; 20 per cent. where employer makes a charge for trough rent and light.
Cutlery, Edge Tool, etc., Manufacture.	Sheffield ...	1 July	Table and butcher knife hafters, table, butcher and shoe blade smithers and forgers by hand, and flat steel and metal fork grinders.	Bonus addition to datal rate and piecework earnings reduced by 7½ per cent., leaving the following bonuses payable on such rate and earnings:—table and butcher knife hafters—datal workers, 1s. per hour, plus 22½ per cent.; pieceworkers, 15 per cent. where no charge for rent and light is made by employer; 20 per cent. where a charge is made by employer for rent and light; table, butcher and shoe blade smithers and forgers by hand, and flat steel and metal fork grinders, 20 per cent.
		20 July	Scissors workers ...	Bonus addition to datal rates reduced by 7½ per cent., and on piecework earnings by either 5 or 7½ per cent.; and the discount off the piece prices for certain pieceworkers increased by either 5 or 7½ per cent. Datal rates after change: filers, 9d. per hour, plus 35 per cent. bonus, plus 5s. per week; borers, putters together and hardeners, 9d. per hour, plus 30 per cent. bonus, plus 5s. per week; forgers, 1s. per hour, plus 32½ per cent. bonus, plus 5s. per week.
Workpeople employed in the heavy and light edge tool, joiners' tool, brace, bit, auger, spade, shovel, fork, hammer, machine knife, scythe and sickle trades (excluding all grinders).	Sheffield ...	1st full pay after 1 July.	Workpeople employed in the heavy and light edge tool, joiners' tool, brace, bit, auger, spade, shovel, fork, hammer, machine knife, scythe and sickle trades (excluding all grinders).	Bonus addition to earnings of men 21 years of age and over reduced by 5s. per week.
		1st full pay after 11 July.	Edge tool grinders ...	Bonus addition to earnings of men 21 years of age and over reduced from 17s. to 12s. per week.
Workpeople employed in the wool shear trade.	Sheffield ...	1st full pay after 1 July.	Workpeople employed in the wool shear trade.	Bonus addition to earnings of men 21 years of age and over reduced from 17s. to 12s. per week.
		1st full pay after 1 July.	Saw makers, grinders, etc....	Bonus addition to earnings of men 21 years of age and over reduced from 17s. to 12s. per week.
Brass Manufacture.	Rotherham, Sheffield, Doncaster, Halifax, and Dewsbury Districts.	1st pay day in July.	Male dayworkers and pieceworkers employed in the brassfounding and finishing trades.	Decrease of 2½ per cent. on earnings for adults and a decrease of 1½ per cent. for youths under 21 years of age making total reductions of 5 per cent. and 2½ per cent. for adults and youths respectively.†
Manufacture of Steel and Metal Pens, etc.	Birmingham and District.	Pay day following 1 July.	Workpeople employed in the manufacture of steel and metal pens and stationers' metal sundries.	Decreases* of 1s. 4d. per week for skilled men and charge hands, of 1s. per week for other men, of 2d. to 9d. per week for male workers under 21 years, and of 2d. to 5d. per week for female workers. Weekly rates after change for adult time workers include: general male workers (lowest grade), 42s.; female workers, 21s. 9d.
Wool-Comb, Hackle, etc. Manufacture.	Bradford, Leeds, Halifax, Keighley, and District.	Pay day in week ending 4 July.	Wool-comb, hackle and gill makers (fallermen, circle repairers and finishers in shops).	Decrease of 1½d. per hour. Rates after change: fallermen, 1s. 4½d. per hour; circle repairers and finishers, 1s. 6½d.
Woolen and Worsted Manufacture.	Bradford, Shipley and Keighley districts (certain firms).‡	July (various dates).	Workpeople employed in the wool, mohair and alpaca sorting, wool-combing, and worsted spinning and manufacturing industries.	Decreases amounting usually to 11-7 per cent. on current total rates for adult timeworkers, with corresponding reductions for pieceworkers and juveniles.†
		4 July	Pinsetters ...	Decrease of 1½d. per hour (1s. 6d. to 1s. 4½d.).
Hosiery Manufacture.	Hawick ...	1st pay day in July.	Workpeople employed in the lambs' wool and worsted yarn spinning industry (excluding engineers, etc.).	Bonus reduced* from 1½d. to 1¼d. in the shilling on earnings. Minimum rates after change for timeworkers: men 23 and over, 42s. 6d. per week; women 21 and over, 25s. 6d.; plus, in each case, 1¼d. in the shilling.
		1st full pay day in July.	Men and women ...	Flat-rate bonuses of 6s. 6d. per week for men and 5s. per week for women reduced* to 3s. 3d. and 2s. 6d. respectively, the bonus of 20 per cent. on base rates remaining unchanged.
Elastic Web Weaving.]	Leicester ...	1st pay day after 24 July.	Male workers ...	Flat-rate bonus of 2s. 3d. per week reduced* to 1s. 1½d., the bonus of 15 per cent. on base rates remaining unchanged.
Drift Nets Mending.	Great Britain ...	27 July	Female workers:— Timeworkers ...	Bonus increased* from 10s. 6d. to 11s. in the £.
			Pieceworkers ...	Increase in minimum time rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of from 2d. to 1½d. per week. Minimum rates after change: 4s. 4d. during first six months, increasing each six months to 2s. 10d. after two years.‡
				Increase in minimum piece rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of 2d. or 3d. per net.‡

* Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements.
 † It was arranged that the total reductions mentioned should operate by two equal instalments; the first instalment took effect in April.
 ‡ The above decreases were the result of individual action on the part of the firms concerned. No trade union was a party to the arrangements. The decreases were effected in most cases by withdrawing the special addition of 5 per cent. payable on basis rates, and reducing the cost-of-living wages from 64 per cent. (paid on basis rates plus 5 per cent.) to 52 per cent. (paid on net basis rates) for adult timeworkers and from 66-32 per cent. to 45-76 per cent. for pieceworkers. The decreases generally applied to all classes of workpeople except engineers, firemen, mechanics, pinsetters, etc. Reductions of similar amounts were also made by certain firms in other districts, including Leeds, Halifax, and Spen Valley.
 § See Notice of Order on page 80 of February GAZETTE.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING JULY, 1931 (continued).

Table with 5 columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which Change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, and Particulars of Change. Rows include Yorkshire (dyeing and finishing), Lancashire/Cheshire (bleaching, printing, etc.), Middleton (timeworkers), Lancashire/Cheshire/Scotland (turners, polishers), Nottingham (lace dyers), Liverpool/Birkenhead/Wallasey (bakers and confectioners), Ayrshire (apprentices), Various districts in Lothians (bakers and confectioners), North-East Lancashire and Todmorden (apprentices), Great Britain (civil engineering), Great Britain (railway electricity), Middlesbrough (drivers and washers), Chester and North Mid-Wales Area (cleaners and greasers).

* The change applied to workers employed by firms who are members of the Yorkshire Master Dyers' Committee (which includes, amongst others, the British Cotton and Wool Dyers' Association, Ltd. (Slubbing Section), the Leeds Dyers and Finishers' Federation, the Yorkshire Indigo, Scarlet and Colour Dyers, Ltd., the Leeds and District Worst Dyers and Finishers' Association, Ltd., the Huddersfield and District Master Dyers' Association, and the West Riding of Yorkshire Master Slubbing Dyers' Association), the Bradford Dyers' Association, Ltd., and the Employers' Federation of Cotton Yarn Bleachers, Dyers and Sizers (certain firms). ... † In respect of the preceding pay period. ‡ Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements. § A special temporary payment of 2s., 2s. 6d., or 3s. per week (according to basic rates) for men, and of 1s. per week for women, is made in addition in the case of timeworkers engaged on productive process work for which a system of collective piecework has not yet been introduced. ¶ The change applied to workers employed by firms who are members of the Federation of Calico Printers, the Employers' Federation of Dyers and Finishers, the Employers' Federation of Bleachers and the Employers' Federation of Cotton Yarn Bleachers, Dyers and Sizers (certain firms). ...

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING JULY, 1931 (continued).

Table with 5 columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which Change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, and Particulars of Change. Rows include Railway Service (Great Britain), Dock, Wharf and Riverside Labour (Various ports in Great Britain, West Hartlepool, Various Authorities in London Area), Local Government (Non-Trading Services) (Various Authorities in Lancashire and Cheshire, Various Authorities in the East Midland Area, Various Authorities in North Wales), Lanarkshire, Leather Goods Manufacture (Walsall, Birmingham and District, London), and Entertainments (London and Suburbs).

* The decrease (which amounted in most cases to 1s. per week) was applied to the majority of the lower-rated men (porters, lampmen, carriage cleaners, undermen, labourers, etc.) in the Conciliation Grades, excluding those who entered the adult grades in the permanent service on and after 1st February, 1926. The decrease did not apply to engine drivers, firemen, guards, ticket collectors, foremen, and other of the higher-rated classes. † Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements. ‡ The decrease applied to the principal coal-exporting centres, including those on the North-East Coast, the East Coast (except Goole), the East of Scotland, and the Bristol Channel. ... § The reduction described is in accordance with a recommendation made by the Joint Industrial Council for Local Authorities' Non-Trading Services in the Administrative County of London. ... ¶ The reductions described are in accordance with recommendations made by the Provincial Joint Industrial Council for Local Authorities' Non-Trading Services. ...

PRINCIPAL CHANGE IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED DURING JULY, 1931.

Table with 5 columns: Industry, Locality, Date, Classes of Workpeople, and Particulars of Change. Row: Coal Mining, North Wales, 8 July, Underground workers, and surface workers manipulating coal, employed in or about coal mines. Decrease of 12 minutes per shift (7 hours 42 minutes to 7 1/2 hours) except on Saturdays (to remain at 6 1/2 hours).

TRADE DISPUTES IN JULY.*

Number, Magnitude and Duration.—The number of disputes involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in July in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 38, as compared with 23 in the previous month, and 30 in July, 1930. In these new disputes about 22,500 workpeople were directly involved, and 1,700 indirectly involved (i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes). In addition, about 12,600 workpeople were involved, either directly or indirectly, in 13 disputes which began before July and were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The number of new and old disputes was thus 51, involving about 36,800 workpeople, and resulting in a loss, during July, of about 194,000 working days.

In the following Table is given an analysis of the disputes in progress in July in Great Britain and Northern Ireland by groups of industries, showing the number of workpeople involved at the establishments concerned, and the approximate time lost during the month in all disputes in progress:—

Table with 6 columns: Industry Group, Started before beginning of Month, Started in Month, Total, Number of Work-people involved in all Disputes in progress in Month, Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress in Month.

Causes.—Of the 38 disputes beginning in July, 9, directly involving 3,800 workpeople, arose out of proposed reductions in wages; 6, directly involving 1,200 workpeople, on other wages questions; 2, directly involving 12,800 workpeople, on questions as to working hours; 16, directly involving 4,100 workpeople, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; and 5, directly involving 600 workpeople, on other questions.

PRINCIPAL DISPUTES INVOLVING STOPPAGES OF WORK DURING JULY, 1931:—

Table with 7 columns: Occupations and Locality, Approximate Number of Work-people involved, Date when Dispute began/ended, Cause or Object, Result.

* Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day, have, as usual, been omitted from the statistics, except when the aggregate duration (i.e., number of workpeople multiplied by number of working days, allowing for workpeople replaced by others, etc.) exceeded 100 days.

Results.—Settlements were effected in the case of 30 new disputes, directly involving 11,300 workpeople, and 4 old disputes, directly involving 400 workpeople. Of these new and old disputes, 8, directly involving 2,700 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 15, directly involving 6,500 workpeople, were settled in favour of the employers; and 11, directly involving 2,500 workpeople, were compromised. In the case of 2 disputes, directly involving 300 workpeople, work was resumed pending negotiations.

TOTALS FOR THE FIRST SEVEN MONTHS OF 1930 AND 1931.† The following Table summarises the figures for Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the first seven months of 1931, as compared with the corresponding period of 1930:—

Table comparing January to July, 1930 and January to July, 1931. Columns include Industry Group, No. of Disputes beginning in period, Number of Work-people involved in all Disputes in progress, Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.

CHANGES IN COST OF LIVING: STATISTICS FOR 1st AUGUST.

Summary: Average Increases since July, 1914.

All Items included ... 45% Food only ... 28%

FOOD.

At 1st August the average level of the retail prices of the principal articles of food was slightly lower than at 1st July. This was chiefly due to reductions in the prices of potatoes, the effect of which was partly counterbalanced by advances in the prices of eggs.

As a net result of all the changes recorded the average increase over the level of July, 1914, in the retail prices (in Great Britain and Northern Ireland) of the articles of food included in these statistics was 28 per cent. at 1st August, 1931, as compared with 30 per cent. at 1st July, 1931, and 44 per cent. at 1st August, 1930.

In the following Table is given a comparison of retail prices of these articles of food in July, 1914, and at 1st July and 1st August 1931:—

Table comparing Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated—to the nearest 1/4d.) and Average Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) at 1st Aug., 1931, as compared with July, 1914, and 1st July, 1931. Articles include Beef, Mutton, Flour, Bread, Tea, Sugar, Milk, Butter, etc.

RENT, CLOTHING, FUEL AND LIGHT.

As regards rents, inquiries which have been made into the changes which have taken effect under the Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Acts indicate that the average increase in the controlled rents (including rates) of working-class dwellings between July, 1914, and 1st August, was approximately 49 per cent. When decontrolled rents are also included, the combined average increase in working-class rents since July, 1914, is approximately 54 per cent. This latter figure has been utilised in calculating the final percentage increase for all the items included in these statistics.

As regards clothing, owing to the wide range of quotations, both now and before the war, to changes in quantities and in stocks held by retailers, and to variations in the extent to which different articles and qualities have been affected by price changes, it is impossible to make an exact calculation of the increase in prices; but information as to the movements of prices of men's suits and overcoats, woollen and cotton materials, underclothing and hosiery, and boots, received from retailers in the principal towns, indicates that at 1st August the level of retail prices of articles in this group, taking goods of the kinds purchased by the working classes and so far as possible the same qualities of goods at each date, averaged approximately 95 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

In the fuel and light group the prices of coal at 1st August averaged about the same as a month earlier and between 75 and 80 per cent. above the level of July, 1914. The average price of gas remained between 45 and 50 per cent. above the pre-war level. For the fuel and light group as a whole (including coal, gas, oil, candles and matches) the average increase at 1st August, as compared with July, 1914, was about 70 per cent.

ALL ITEMS.

If the average increases in the cost of all the foregoing items are combined in accordance with their relative importance in pre-war working-class family expenditure, allowance being also made for the increase in the prices of soap, soda, domestic ironmongery, brushware and pottery, tobacco, fares and newspapers (averaging about 75 per cent.), the resultant general average increase for 1st August, 1931, is approximately 45 per cent.* over the level of July, 1914, as compared with 47 per cent. at 1st July, 1931, and 57 per cent. at 1st August, 1930.

The result of this calculation (in which the same quantities and, as far as possible, the same qualities of each item are taken in 1931 as in 1914) is to show the average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the pre-war standard of living of working-class families (i.e., the standard actually prevailing in working-class families before the war, irrespective of whether such standard was adequate or not). In view of the variations in the amounts of increase in the prices of different commodities it is probable that economies or readjustments in expenditure have been effected in many families, especially in those cases where incomes have not increased so much as prices. On the other hand, the standard of living may have been raised in many cases in which wages have been increased in greater proportion than prices. No allowance is made in the figures for any such alterations in the standard of living, as to which trustworthy statistics are not available.

The following Table gives a percentage comparison of the level of retail prices at the same dates:—

Table comparing Average Percentage Increase at 1st Aug., 1931, as compared with July, 1914, and Corresponding General Average for 1st July, 1931. Articles include Beef, Mutton, Flour, Bread, Tea, Sugar, Milk, Butter, etc.

SUMMARY TABLE: 1920 to 1931.

The following Table shows the average percentage increase, as compared with July, 1914, for all the items included in the statistics, at the beginning of each month, 1920 to 1931:—

Table showing Average Percentage Increase since July, 1914—All Items. (Food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, etc.) for months from 1920 to 1931.

NOTE.

A detailed account of the method of compilation of these statistics "The Cost of Living Index Number: Method of Compilation" has been published, and may be purchased, price 3d. net (3 1/2d. post free), from H.M. Stationery Office, at any of the addresses shown on the cover of this GAZETTE.

* If this kind is seldom dealt with in a locality, the returns quote the price of another kind locally representative. † The description of cheese specified for quotation is Canadian or American, but where such cheese is seldom sold in a locality the returns quote the price of another kind locally representative.

* If allowance is made for the changes in taxation since July, 1914, on the commodities included in these statistics, the average increase is about 1 per cent. less.

RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS.

N.B.—While the percentages given in the following Summary Tables are derived from the most authoritative sources of statistical information, certain differences in the nature and scope of the data used, in the methods of combining such data and in the periods for which the rise is measured, suggest the need for caution in drawing conclusions from a comparison between the figures for any two countries or cities. It is also to be observed that in every case the percentage calculation is based on the assumption that the standard of living is identical at the various periods compared.]

I.—FOOD.

PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN RETAIL FOOD PRICES IN THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES AS COMPARED WITH JULY, 1914.*

Table showing percentage increase in retail food prices for various countries from July 1914 to July 1931. Columns include Country, July 1927, July 1928, July 1929, July 1930, Latest figures available (Rise, Date), and 1931.

II.—ALL ITEMS.

PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES IN THE COST OF FOOD, TOGETHER WITH (SO FAR AS POSSIBLE) HOUSE-RENT, CLOTHING, FUEL AND LIGHT, AND OTHER HOUSEHOLD REQUIREMENTS, AS COMPARED WITH JULY, 1914.*

Table showing percentage increase in the cost of food and other household requirements for various countries from July 1914 to July 1931. Columns include Country, Items on which computation is based, July 1927, July 1928, July 1929, July 1930, Latest figures available (Rise, Date), and 1931.

* Exceptions to this are: Egypt, January 1913 to July 1914; France (other towns), August, 1914; Rome and Milan, January to June, 1914; Switzerland, June, 1914; Spain, South Africa, France (Paris, all items), Poland, 1914; Germany, average, 1913-1914; Amsterdam, 1911-1913; Belgium, April, 1914; Italy (food), United States (all items), Canada, 1913; Australia (all items), November, 1914. The Australian percentages for all items are a weighted average for the six capital cities. The percentages are calculated, in Czechoslovakia and Poland, on prices converted to their gold values, and, in the other countries, on prices in the ordinary currency.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

The number of workpeople, other than seamen, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, reported during July, 1931, as killed in the course of their employment was 158, as compared with 153 in the previous month and with 185 in July, 1930. Fatal accidents to seamen reported in July, 1931, numbered 21, as compared with 31 in the previous month and with 32 in July, 1930.

Table of fatal industrial accidents categorized by industry: Railway Service, Mines, Quarries, Factories and Workshops, Seamen, and Industrial Diseases.

INDUSTRIAL DISEASES.

The total number of cases† of poisoning, anthrax, and epitheliomatous and chrome ulceration in Great Britain and Northern Ireland reported during July, 1931, under the Factory and Workshop Act, or under the Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Act, was 38, and the total number of deaths‡ reported was 2. In addition, one case of lead poisoning among plumbers not employed in factories came to the knowledge of the Home Office during July, but notification of such cases is not obligatory. One case of anthrax among dock labourers was also reported.

Table of industrial diseases categorized by type: (a) Lead Poisoning, (b) Other Poisoning, (c) Anthrax, (d) Epitheliomatous Ulceration (Skin Cancer), and (e) Chrome Ulceration.

* Accidents occurring in the use or working of railways are included under "Railway Service." † Cases include all attacks reported during the month, and not previously reported, so far as is known, during the preceding 12 months. Deaths include all fatal cases reported during the month, whether included (as cases) in previous returns or not. ‡ The person affected in the pottery industry was a female.

POOR RELIEF IN JULY.

(Data supplied by the Ministry of Health in England and Wales and the Department of Health in Scotland.)

The number of persons* relieved on one day† in July, 1931, in the forty-seven selected areas named below, was 550,762, or 0.2 per cent. less than in the previous month but 9.1 per cent. more than in July, 1930. The numbers relieved at these three dates were equivalent, respectively, to rates of 332, 332 and 304 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

In the forty-three selected areas in England and Wales, the number of persons relieved in July, 1931, was 454,355, a decrease of 0.7 per cent. as compared with June, 1931, but an increase of 6.3 per cent. as compared with a year ago. In the four areas in Scotland, the number relieved was 96,407, an increase of 2.3 per cent. as compared with a month ago, and an increase of 24.1 per cent. as compared with July, 1930.

Recipients of indoor relief in the forty-seven areas in July numbered 102,518, or 2.1 per cent. less than in the previous month, and 10.4 per cent. less than a year ago. Recipients of outdoor relief numbered 448,244, or 0.3 per cent. more than in the previous month and 14.7 per cent. more than a year ago.

Of the forty-seven areas, twenty-three showed small increases in the number per 10,000 relieved in July, as compared with the previous month, while twenty-one showed small decreases; in three areas there was no change. Compared with July, 1930, thirty-six areas showed increases, including Glasgow (140 per 10,000), Manchester (138 per 10,000), Sheffield (123 per 10,000), and Liverpool (119 per 10,000); while eleven showed decreases, the most noteworthy being St. Helens (49 per 10,000).

Table showing poor relief statistics by county and area, including indoor and outdoor relief, total persons relieved, and rates per 10,000 population.

* The figures include dependants, but exclude persons in receipt of outdoor medical relief only and casuals. In England and Wales, patients in mental hospitals (formerly referred to as lunatics in asylums), and, in Scotland, lunatics and mental defectives, are also excluded. † 25th July in England and Wales (excluding London), 11th July in London, and 15th July in Scotland.

ASSISTED PASSAGES UNDER THE EMPIRE SETTLEMENT ACT, 1922.

The following statistics relate to assisted passages from Great Britain and Northern Ireland in connection with agreed schemes under the Empire Settlement Act. The figures include both applicants and dependants of applicants to whom assisted passages have been granted. Approvals subsequently cancelled have been excluded. The figures are provisional and subject to revision.

Table showing assisted passages statistics by destination, including applications approved, total applications approved, and total departures.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

Trade Boards Acts, 1909-1918.

BRUSH AND BROOM TRADE.

An employer was prosecuted on 8th July, 1931, for underpaying seven female workers, failure to keep wages records, producing to an inspector false records of wages, and giving false information to the inspector. He pleaded guilty, and was fined £10 5s., with 24s. 6d. costs.—Rex v. Sidney Edward Corne. Norwich Police Court.

MILK DISTRIBUTIVE TRADE.

A company and its agent were prosecuted for underpaying four workers. The company was fined £2 on each summons, with £5 9s. costs, and the charges against the agent were dismissed under the Probation of Offenders Act on payment of 16s. costs. Arrears amounting to £70 4s. 7d. were paid before the hearing.—Rex v. H. R. White & Co., Ltd., and J. H. Marks. Portsmouth Police Court. 1st July, 1931.

READY-MADE AND WHOLESALE BESPOKE TAILORING TRADE.

A company was charged with the underpayment of two workers and with failing to keep adequate records. They were also charged jointly with a piece-master, with the underpayment of two other workers. Both defendants pleaded guilty. The company was fined £22, with £5 5s. costs, and the piece-master £4, with £2 2s. costs. The company was ordered to pay £14 18s. 9d. arrears.—Rex v. S. L. and M. Feathers, Ltd., and Robert Henry Blackburn. Manchester Police Court. 17th July, 1931.

Factory and Workshop Acts, 1901-1920.*

The occupiers of a clothing factory were charged with the employment of two male young persons at night, to wit until 9.30 p.m. The offence was admitted, and a fine of 10s., with 15s. costs, was imposed in each case.—J. H. Craig v. Clarence Clothing Co., Ltd. Belfast Petty Sessions. 3rd July, 1931.

A firm of packing-case makers was prosecuted for failure to fence a circular saw, in accordance with the requirements of the Woodworking Machinery Regulations (Northern Ireland), 1922. A plea of guilty was tendered, and a penalty of £3 was inflicted, together with the sum of 3s. costs.—J. H. Craig v. Jones Brothers and Daley, Ltd. Belfast Petty Sessions. 16th July, 1931.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTS, 1920-31.

DECISIONS GIVEN BY THE UMPIRE.

The Umpire is a judicial authority independent of the Ministry of Labour, appointed by the Crown under Section 12 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, for the purpose of determining disputed claims to benefit. His decisions† are final.

Appeals to the Umpire may be made by the Insurance Officer or by an Association of which the claimant is a member, or, with the permission of the Court of Referees, by the claimant himself. The claimant may also appeal if the decision of the Court was not unanimous.

* These cases were decided in the Northern Ireland courts. † Volumes containing selected decisions of the Umpire are published annually by H.M. Stationery Office, the latest being a volume of selected decisions given during the year 1929 (price 7s. 6d. net). A volume containing a special selection of important decisions given by the Umpire prior to 19th April, 1928 (price 15s. net), and a volume containing selected decisions given from 19th April, 1928, to 12th March, 1930 (price 6s. net), have also been issued; also an analytical guide to decisions given before 13th March, 1930 (price 2s. 6d. net). Selected decisions are also issued monthly in pamphlet form, and may be obtained, as and when issued, on payment of an annual subscription, the latest pamphlet being that for June, 1931.

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